

THE VOTE,
December 5, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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SIXTH WEEK

Edited by C. DESPARD.

FOUR EXTRA PAGES.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

— A —

MULTITUDE

— OF —

COUNSELLORS.

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—F. D. ACLAND, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Slow to Learn.

Cambridge has awakened the nation to the question of policewomen, but so far as the matter has gone at present it seems that masculine wisdom cannot yet bear the light. Is it afraid of the policewoman's bright buttons, not to mention her searchings into dark places, that it rubs its eyes, cries "pooh-pooh!" and turns to sleep again? We note that the voice of authority, strongly opposing the suggested innovation of policewomen in the abode of learning, prides itself on the fact that to keep order on the river and elsewhere the number of plain-clothes officers has recently been doubled. Evidently drastic measures are needed, but there is no inclination to put into practice a reform which has worked with extraordinary success in other countries. We have already devoted considerable space in THE VOTE to recording the achievements of policewomen in the United States. Nearer home, too, object-lessons are available for those who have eyes to see. Some years ago Germany appointed Sister Henrietta Arendt, of Stuttgart, as an assistant police officer. She belonged to one of the Free Nursing organisations of the country, and her duty was to take under her special charge women and children who came within the arm of the law. So successful was her work that in the country, usually supposed to think that children, church, and cooking are the bounds of women's interests and concerns, there are policewomen in sixty towns. It is significant to note that Sister Arendt's books, dealing with her experiences as a police officer, have these titles:—"People who Have Lost the Way," "Little White Slaves," and "The Traffic in Children." If Germany, as well as Scandinavian countries, has recognised the value of the work of women in these dark places, why does "enlightened" England lag behind? There is one explanation: prejudice, and till women have in their hands the weapon of the vote, prejudice will bar the way.

Women as Magistrates.

The cases reported week by week in our column, "The 'Protected' Sex," show how severely women suffer at the hands of those whom the country pays to dispense justice. Some inkling of the truth appears to be penetrating into the minds of certain of our legislators. It is a long process, but we hope it will not stop with the declaration of Mr. Arnold Rowntree at York last week, that the disadvantages of women before the law require women in the jury-box and on the bench. This is what we are constantly hammering into the dull brain of authority.

Vice Its Own Reward.

We hear that the only benefit paid to insured women in the workhouses is the "maternity benefit" paid to the mothers of illegitimate children—in one case to mark the State's approval of the arrival of a third bastard. The workhouse infirmaries throughout the country are full of insured maid-servants suffering from various ills the flesh is heir to, but nothing has been paid to them; they are the ninety and nine just persons. The sinner, whether repentant or not, receives the blessing of Mr. Lloyd George and the thirty pieces of silver.

The Twentieth Century Ideal of Motherhood.

On the Admiralty Arch is to be seen a gigantic figure of a woman clasping to her bosom—a cannon. What woman born of woman would wish to nurse such a monstrosity? Man-made sculpture is getting as heartless and one-sided as man-made law, strange as it seems, for men are generally the true sentimentalists over babies.

Australia.

The Woman Voter, of Melbourne, edited by Miss Vida Goldstein, has a useful extract from the proceedings of the House of Representatives on October 9. Dr. Malony, a prominent member, brought to the notice of the Assistant-Minister for Home Affairs "the insult placed on every politician in that House and the stigma put on 2,760,216 electors of Australia" by Sir Almoth Wright, who said that "the woman voter in the Colonies is only a pawn in the game of politics and of the opportunist politicians who have enfranchised her." Dr. Malony, in a speech of much warmth, alluded to the fine record of the statesmen who enfranchised women, and to the appreciation of their value as voters expressed by Mr. Deakin when Prime Minister; and protested indignantly against the imputations made by this medical man. He was supported by Mr. Kelly, Honorary Minister, who agreed with him that the House resented this "futile and silly reflection on half the electors of Australia," and dismissed Sir A. Wright's views with the condemnation they deserve.

South Africa.

The Women's Enfranchisement League of Johannesburg has at last started open-air meetings, a great innovation for women in a land where streets and spaces swarm with native men. Mrs. Wolf Myers, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Griffiths, and other courageous pioneers inaugurated the new order of things, and their efforts have met with the utmost sympathy from both Press and public. These ladies, we may mention, are in full sympathy with the militant movement, and have on various occasions sent messages of encouragement to the fighters on this side of the water. A deputation also approached the Prime Minister, General Botha, and was most courteously received. Prime Ministers in South Africa, however, are much like Prime Ministers elsewhere. General Botha's reason for delay was quaint and has the virtue of novelty. He refused to support the Suffrage Bill introduced by Mr. W. H. Andrews (Labour) because he believes that the matter should be brought forward in a Government measure! His reasons for evading the obligation, he himself admits, are as little satisfactory as those of Mr. George or Sir Edward Grey.

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ADDITIONAL ORGANISERS. £500 WANTED.

Many thanks to all the kind friends whose contributions already received have given a good start to this special fund.

More organisers must be appointed at once. The League is growing and expanding so rapidly, so many new members are joining, so many new Branches are waiting to be formed, that we must not be hampered for want of workers.

A General Election may soon be upon us. The whole country—north, south, east and west—must echo and re-echo with the cry of "Votes for Women."

The Women's Freedom League is ready and able to take a full share in this work, and we confidently appeal to every one of our readers to do his or her own part, and send a donation at once towards the special £500 now being raised.

E. KNIGHT.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Christmas Presents Sale.—Next Wednesday afternoon, at Caxton Hall, we shall have the pleasure of listening to an address from Mr. Baillie Weaver on "Male Cant about Female Violence," and we hope to have a really good audience to welcome him. The chair will be taken at 3.30 by Mrs. Mustard. Immediately after the meeting everyone will be invited to attend our Christmas Presents Sale in the Council Chamber. Mrs. Huntsman wishes cordially to thank the numerous friends who have responded to her appeal by sending her a most varied and beautiful assortment of presents for this Sale. Further gifts can still be received at this Office, or can be taken to Caxton Hall early next Wednesday afternoon. Refreshments will be provided; the Sale and entertainments will be in progress until 10.0 p.m. We hope our many friends, young and old, from near and from afar, will rally round us next Wednesday, make up their minds to buy all their Christmas presents from us—we have articles to suit everyone's taste and everyone's purse—and to help us in our merrymaking at this festive season. All the money handed in as donations or taken at our Christmas Presents Stalls will be passed over to our honorary treasurer, Dr. E. Knight, for the general funds of the Women's Freedom League.

Mrs. Fisher will be pleased to meet members at this Office at 11.30, on Wednesday morning, who are willing to parade or distribute handbills with her to advertise this meeting at Caxton Hall—the last for this session.

"Vote" Rally.—More VOTE sellers are needed for London, and Mrs. Despard will be delighted to meet next Friday evening at this Office, at 7.30, all members of the VOTE Brigade, or friends who are willing to sell our paper in the London streets.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELLORS.

That sententious philosopher, King Solomon (who would have been well advised to have preached less and practised more) assured the world long, long ago, that in a multitude of counsellors wisdom would be found. This is one of those confusing dicta that contain both a truth and a lie. If the counsellors are unbalanced, contradictory, pig-headed, or irresponsible, there is not much greater advantage in many than in

few; numbers only serve to make "confusion worse confounded." The outpourings of the nation's counsellors in the last few weeks will serve excellently as an illustration; well adapted to one purpose only—to muddle whatever modicum of mind John Bull and his Joan can spare from golf, football, and picture palaces for their most intimate concerns, the history of their race in the making—we defy the most biased party politician to put up a coherent case based on the utterances of his leaders, or to explain their opinions in any fashion which would avert ridicule were the public not too purblind and too pre-occupied to mark, learn, and digest.

Cabinet Ministers led the chorus of incoherent counsel. Rebellious, threatening Ulster, and some elections let off as a means of testing the feeling of the country (not to mention the making of provision for one or two "tried and proven friends" before the blast of change deprived them of office) drew these lofty souls from the golf-links and the grouse moors. They said things. And then they said other things. Different things. And then they all spoke at once and the things did not tally. Luckily for Cabinet Ministers, one of the essentials of office is a thick skin. The things said by the people who noted the discrepancies did not penetrate the outer husk.

The Opposition then had its innings. More in sorrow

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than in anger, it wanted to know what the different things meant. Did a "Conference" mean "an interchange of views," or *vice versa*? Did "legislation by accord and not by discord" mean that the Home Rule cloud would be lifted, ever so little, even? Did "respect and sympathy for the feelings of the minority" mean anything at all? And if so,—what? The while, Mr. Bonar Law and the Unionist Party would "stand by" Sir Edward Carson and Ulster; and Sir Edward Carson and Ulster would "never abandon" the Loyalists of the South. Like twin modern Mrs. Micawbers, the English and Irish leaders vow they will never desert the gentleman who is so palpably waiting for something to turn up; but their sorrow when told that there will be no Conference; or, alternately, their wrath when a basis for such a Conference is dimly and distantly suggested; are equally overwhelming and equally comic.

The ordinary member weighed in next. At £400 a year one obviously cannot expect the same form as at £5,000, or even £1,500; yet after some of the trials, one would be inclined to back one or two for a place. Mr. George Thorne, for instance, and Lord Robert Cecil, and the new member, Baillie Pratt. They almost come up to Cabinet level. But we are more especially pleased with certain deans and clerics.

There was once a converted pagan, one Naaman, to wit, who obtained permission to continue "bowing down in the House of Rimmon" in a natural and quite modern desire to keep his billet and to avoid social and political complications. What one is tempted to ask is, who gave the Dean of Durham and the Dean of St. Paul's leave to bow in the House of Rimmon; and who gave them authority to administer rebukes to those broad-minded and—this is the point—much more highly placed and authoritative gentlemen, the Bishops of Winchester and Kensington? Verily, we feel inclined to say that those who are so sensitive about the moral law and about insubordination and law-breaking and

so forth, would do well to set an example of meek submission and obedience, and "to order themselves lowly and reverently to all their betters" as inculcated by the Church Catechism. Let us, however, leave the gloomy Dean and his gloomy opportunism—his desire to stand well with the powers that be; to reject the women's demand because of a mild form of militancy, while he would not reject a bishopric at the hands of either political party deep-dyed with militancy though both are—aye, and crime such as the most militant woman has never dreamt of; let us leave this gloomy hypocrite and return to the pretty prattlings of the Solomons in office.

Solomon Asquith has had a Great Thought. He finds that "Ireland is by far the most urgent case, because it is the one undeniable failure of British statesmanship." We admire Mr. Asquith's modesty. One undeniable failure! Just think of it! With a storm of increasing indignation rising among women, with some of our noblest citizens going in and out of gaols, with an infantile mortality that is a disgrace, with the Traffic in Women spread world-wide in spite of the agitation in 1857 and in 1881 and 1882, with the public faced with the utter impossibility of purchasing pure and wholesome food; Mr. Asquith admits "one undeniable failure."

We are also interested in his view of the Referendum. "Is there anyone in this room, or outside it, credulous and ignorant enough to suppose that that election would be fought or could be fought on the single issue of Home Rule?" And again: "Do you suppose that you or I are going to allow a general election to be fought without bringing that up?" If we were shy of the Unionist panacea before, we would be doubly shy of it now we know what the methods of its opponents would be, by hearing it from their own lips. Like Mr. Blair at Bow and Bromley, they would refuse to allow one clear issue to be fought, but would claim the result as a victory, or a defeat, for anything they most fancied.

Mr. George is getting, like Alice in Wonderland, "curiouser and curiouser." His candour exceeds all decent limits. He has just perpetrated a "bloomer" of such extravagant dimensions that its very simplicity prevents it, at first blush, from seeming extravagant. He is concerned about the "alarming spread of Carsonism" (not only in Ulster). He says:—"Ulster is getting fussed about what will happen if a certain law is carried. But there are millions of people in this country who are suffering wrong from laws which are actually on the Statute Book, and if every law you dislike, every law which galls you is going to produce and justify rebellion . . . Can Mr. George tell us what else ever has produced and justified rebellion? Is it not the very *fons et origo* of rebellion? Should not men with votes, men with Parliamentary and Cabinet rank, be ashamed to make such an admission? And should not they hasten to remove the wrong from the shoulders of the voteless first, and not attend immediately to those already protected, equipped for attack? Mr. George likes to pick and choose among his "wrongs." He would resign if necessary over the Land wrong, but not over the Franchise wrong.

Mr. Acland has spoken too. A kindly gentleman, with what we suppose the Lord Advocate would call "the courage of his convictions," he sadly owns he could not "permanently adhere" to a Liberalism that denied citizenship to women. There is a "growing determination that women's suffrage on a democratic basis must be an essential part of the Liberalism of the future." The two words that require explanation are "permanent" and "essential." How long will Mr. Acland continue to adhere without being "permanent"? How long is one justified in adhering if one may not with honour adhere permanently? And what constitutes "essential"? In 1905, the Liberal Federation in Conference overwhelmingly voted Women's Suffrage an integral feature of Liberalism, and has since 1908 with

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growing enthusiasm hailed as Leader the man who denies it. What makes it "essential"?

After Mr. Acland, the position of Mr. George Thorne, M.P., seems almost tame. He gives his warm support to the candidature of Mr. Grainger at South Nottingham in the Liberal interest, and declared that he did not believe in "any man" who earnestly desired to do something to benefit his fellows, however unwisely he acted, being put in prison. He does not appear to have mentioned "any woman."

Lord Robert Cecil must have a word too. He has been giving advice. After setting forth methods for the use of Suffragists, he adds:—"These are the methods I advise, and I confess they imply so much tedious, determined work that I should not have any hope in recommending their adoption by men. But I think it the most practical work you can do at this juncture." Comment is superfluous; we need only point out that Lord Robert knows very well that men would find a short cut, and he would never dream of blaming them. He keeps his censure for women, according to the double standard of morals which disgraces his sex and the country.
C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Liberal Women's Demand.

In connection with the National Liberal Federation meetings at Leeds, a conference of Liberal women was held on November 27, at which Mrs. Heron Maxwell moved a resolution calling upon the Government to take means at the earliest opportunity towards granting the Parliamentary vote to women, and placing the Parliamentary and local franchise on an equitable basis, enabling married women to vote for and be candidates for town and county councils outside London. The resolution also recorded the abhorrence of the conference at the violent tactics of the small section of militant suffragists. Mrs. Maxwell said that Sir John Brunner had spoken so strongly on the question of armaments that he said there was a point beyond which they might become troubled about their loyalty. She would like to say to Sir John Brunner and other Liberal men that if they felt so strongly about that, could they not sympathise with the position of Liberal women in the struggle they were having with their principles for their party? She referred to those who looked upon the enfranchisement of women as an outcome of the great Liberal principle of justice. Liberal women wanted to see the great reforms that were now being talked about carried out, but they must do their best to return a Liberal House of Commons pledged to give them their enfranchisement. After Mr. R. C. Lambert, M.P., had seconded the resolution, and Miss Alison Garland had spoken in support, it was carried. A branch of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union was formed.

Votes for Women, or Withdrawal from the Liberal Party, says Mr. F. D. Acland.

Addressing a meeting of Young Liberals at Farnworth on November 26, Mr. F. D. Acland, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, spoke strongly in favour of Woman Suffrage, and said that he would be unable permanently to adhere to a Liberalism which refused to treat women as citizens.

"I think," Mr. Acland said, "that by far the most important thing that we have yet to do with regard to completing our democratic machinery is to enfranchise women. (Cheers.) I notice that my friend Mr. Lloyd George has recently said that militancy has put back the cause of Women's Suffrage. That statement is perfectly true, but I do not think it is quite the whole truth. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been so busy with his glorious work with regard to the land that he is not, perhaps, quite up to date on the subject. In saying that I suggest, of course, no sort of criticism. One can only feel how things are going by doing active work. Mr. Lloyd George has been otherwise engaged doing very splendid and active work with regard to the land, and he has had no time to feel the pulse of the community on the question of Women's Suffrage. It so happens that I have spoken a good deal on the subject in the early part of the year, and again recently, and I find now a much saner view prevails generally about militancy. In the spring people were saying, 'So long as militancy continues we will absolutely refuse to consider the question on its merits.'

If Liberal Leaders will Lead.

"But now, though people regard militancy as just as foolish and criminal as before, yet I believe they are beginning to get a little bored with it, and people are feeling that they are bound to consider the question of the extension of the Suffrage and of citizenship to women seriously, as a necessary extension of democracy, in spite of the fact that there is a little militant madness every now and then. The Liberal audiences that I have been happy to address realise, of course, that the Government can do nothing further during this Parliament, because the Cabinet is equally divided on the subject. But there is a

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growing determination that Women's Suffrage on a democratic basis must be an essential part of the Liberalism of the future. I am proud that it is an accepted part of the policy of the League of Young Liberals. I should not have been president of this branch and president of the central branch in London if it had not been so. I believe that if great Liberal leaders will lead on this subject as on others there will be a tremendous response from the country. It is possible to lay down the lines of future advance at the present time, and I say for myself—and I hope there are others of far more importance than I—that I shall be unable permanently to adhere to a Liberalism which refuses to treat women as citizens. (Cheers.)

It was said that women could not fight. Who did the greatest work for the State and risked most—the men who wore arms or the women who bore children? That was a question worth thinking about. They consulted the women in the ordinary affairs of life, and was there any reason why women should not be their comrades in political life? In possessing the power of the franchise they would cultivate and develop in this country a much more vigorous and progressive public opinion with regard to public matters."

Woman Suffrage Conference in Dublin.

The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation has organised a conference in Dublin from December 9 to 12. For a week beforehand volunteers will distribute handbills; motors will advertise the event through the streets. Delegates are expected from all parts of Ireland. The N.U.W.S.S., the Women's Freedom League, the "New Constitutional," the "Votes for Women Fellowship," and the "Tax Resistance" are sending representatives. Dr. Marion Phillips is to speak on Women's Trade Unions. In connection with the Conference a public debate with the anti-Suffragists has been arranged. Meetings will be held daily at the Rotunda at 3 and 7 p.m., and on Thursday evening at 8, the programme being as follows: "The Present Position of Women's Suffrage," "The Conditions of Women's Suffrage," "The Conditions of Women's Work in Ireland," "Women's Trade Unions and the Vote," "If Women had Votes." During the Conference an extremely attractive sale will be carried on to defray expenses. Feminist plays will be given on December 8, 9, 10. Mrs. Tanner will represent the Women's Freedom League.

Trade Unions Support Women's Suffrage.

The following Norwich Trade Unions have passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage:—Bricklayers' Operative Society, Brushmakers' Society, Railway Clerks' Association, Electrical Workers' Union, Gasworkers and General Labourers' Union, Mill Sawyers and Wood Cutting Machinists' Union.

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THE SALE THAT WAS NOT A SALE.

After many months of barricade, "Brackenhill" was broken into by the tax-collecting authorities, and "in the King's name" the doors were battered in and Mrs. Harvey's goods were seized to cover the amount of taxes which she refuses to pay so long as no woman in the land has a voice in controlling the expenditure of the country. The tax-collector wanted these goods to be disposed of peacefully, and therefore insisted that they should be sold on the premises and not in a public hall, as on a previous occasion. On Saturday morning a band of Suffragist men carried placards through the streets of Bromley, on which was the device, "I personally protest against the sale of a woman's goods to pay taxes over which she has no control," and long before 3.30, the time fixed for the sale, from North, South, East and West, people came streaming into the little town of Bromley, and made their way towards "Brackenhill." Punctually at 3.30 the tax-collector and his deputy mounted the table in the dining-room, and the former, more in sorrow than in anger, began to explain to the crowd assembled that this was a genuine sale! Mrs. Harvey at once protested against the sale taking place. Simply and solely because she was a woman, although she was a mother, a business woman, and a tax-payer, she had no voice in saying how the taxes collected from her should be spent. The tax collector suffered this speech in silence, but he could judge by the cheers it received that there were many ardent sympathisers with Mrs. Harvey in her protest. He tried to proceed, but one after another the men present loudly urged that no one there should bid for the goods. The tax-collector feebly said this wasn't a political meeting, but a genuine sale! "One penny for your goods then!" was the derisive answer. "One penny—one penny!" was the continued cry from both inside and outside "Brackenhill." Then men protested that the tax-collector was not a genuine auctioneer; he had no hammer, no list of the goods to be sold was hung up in the room. There was no catalogue, nothing to show bidders what was to be sold and what wasn't. The men also objected to the presence of the tax-collector's deputy. "Tell him to get down!" they shouted. "The sale shan't proceed till he does," they yelled. "Get down! Get down!" they sang. But the tax-collector felt safer by the support of this deputy. "He's afraid of his own clerk," they jeered. Again the tax-collector asked for bids. "One penny! One penny!" was the deafening response. The din increased every moment and pandemonium reigned supreme. During a temporary lull the tax-collector said a sideboard had been sold for nine guineas. Angry cries from angry men greeted this announcement. "Illegal sale!" "He shan't take it home!" "The whole thing's illegal!" "You shan't sell anything else!" and *The Daily Herald* Leaguers, members of the Men's Political Union, and of other men's societies, proceeded to make more noise than twenty brass bands. Darkness was quickly setting in; the tax-collector looked helpless, and his deputy smiled wearily. "Talk about a comic opera—it's better than Gilbert and Sullivan could manage," roared an enthusiast. "My word, you look sick, gov'nor! Give it up, man!" Then everyone shouted against the other until the tax-collector said he closed the sale, remarking plaintively that he had lost £7 over the job! Ironic cheers greeted this news, with "Serve you right for stealing a woman's goods!" He turned his back on his tormentors, and sat down in a chair on the table to think things over. The protesters sat on the sideboard informing all and sundry that if anyone wanted to take away the sideboard he should take them with it! With the exit of the tax-collector, his deputy and the bailiff, things gradually grew quieter, and later on Mrs. Harvey entertained her supporters to tea at the Bell Hotel. But the curious thing is, a man paid nine guineas for the sideboard to the tax-collector, Mrs. Harvey owed him more than £17, and Mrs. Harvey is still in possession of the sideboard!

In the Market-square in the evening Miss Boyle presided at a large and orderly meeting at which Mr. Mark Wilkes, Mr. Bell, Mr. Webber, Mr. Steer, and Mr. Jouning spoke. The Tax Resistance banners mingled with those of the Women's Freedom League, and the meeting was the event of Saturday evening at Bromley.

At the instigation of Mr. Webber enthusiastic cheers were given for Mrs. Harvey and the Cause, and Mrs. Despard, responding to an insistent call, wound up the meeting with a short speech.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE

Excellent Meeting at Hastings.

At the Grand Concert Hall, Hastings, on Monday night a public meeting was held under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League, which created immense interest in the town owing to the recent decision by Judge Mackarness in favour of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies against the Mayor and Corporation of Hastings. It will be remembered that owing to the Anti-Suffrage riots on May 24, the authorities prohibited the protest meeting to be held that night, and it was the same mob which attacked the members of the National Union a few days later.

The postponed meeting of the Women's Tax Resistance League was held last Monday night, and in the unavoidable absence of the Countess Brassey the chair was taken by Lady Isabel Hampden Margesson, a direct descendant of John Hampden.

Lady Isabel, in her opening speech, fully vindicated the action of her historic ancestor, and illustrated by her well-chosen words and clearly expressed sentiments, that she is equally prepared to resist injustice and expose bad government.

Mr. Laurence Housman, in a brilliant political speech, traced the constitutional history of Tax Resistance from Magna Charta to the present day, proving that only through refusing to submit to imposition have all great reforms been won.

Mrs. Kineton Parkes, who was the other speaker, accused the Government of unconstitutional action in demanding taxation from a large section of the community from whom they withheld representation. She also gave the moral reasons why women should demand the vote, and why they should also unite in protesting by the time honoured way of Tax Resistance against its continual denial.

At the close of the meeting the following resolution was carried with one dissentient:

"That this meeting is of opinion that women are justified in refusing to pay all Imperial taxes until they are granted the same control over national expenditure as male tax-payers possess."

It is satisfactory to know that there was adequate police protection. It is stated on good authority that the Chief Constable was himself in attendance at this meeting, together with seventy members of the Force, and as many of these men were taken from night duty it caused the authorities a good deal of extra expense. This police protection would have been more to the point if it had been in evidence in the streets of Hastings on May 24.

On Tuesday, November 25, Mrs. Kineton Parkes spoke at Bristol under the auspices of the New Constitutional Society, and on Wednesday, at Cardiff, under the Women's Social and Political Union.

No Vote, No Dog Licence.

At the Assize Court, Kingston-on-Thames, on Wednesday, November 26, Miss Isabelle Stewart, B.Sc., was summoned for non-payment of her dog licence. Defendant did not appear, but it was explained that she had declined to pay the tax on conscientious grounds. As a suffragist she believed that it was unjust to tax women while they were unrepresented in Parliament. She was accordingly fined £2 inclusive, and it was stated that she would not pay a fine she considered unjust, distraint was ordered to be levied.

A number of sympathisers were in the Court, including Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, who is refusing to pay the licences on her eight dogs. A meeting was held by the Coronation Stone in the Market Square. Miss M. Lawrence presided, pointing out that had Miss Stewart been a man she would have had two votes; as a woman she had none. Mrs. Sudd Brown then addressed the crowd. She commented on the treachery of a Government that had gone back on its principle of no taxation without representation and on the different forms of treatment meted out to Sir Edward Carson, Jim Larkin, and the Suffragists respectively. The crowd throughout was sympathetic, and at the end of the meeting swarmed round the speaker and argued in an amicable way with her.

Mrs. Harvey's Thanks.

The Women's Tax Resistance League has received a very charming letter of thanks from Mrs. Harvey for the bouquet presented to her by Miss Clemence Housman on behalf of the League at the Caxton Hall Meeting on Sunday, November 16.

"THE Women's Suffrage Movement seems to me Christian to the core."—*The Headmaster of Repton at Oxford.*

SUPPORT THOSE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT US.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE BY-ELECTION.

Organiser: Miss Ada Broughton.
Committee Rooms: 23, Waterside-street, Strathaven.

Candidates:—

Mr. W. WATSON (U.).
Mr. GEO. MORTON (R.).
Mr. T. GIBB (Lab.).

Electorate, 11,120.

Liberal Majority at last Election, 1,197.

Polling Day, Friday, December 12.

Notwithstanding the wet and boisterous weather, we have managed to hold successful open-air meetings during the past week. At Carlisle, on Monday, Miss Broughton appealed to the men to censure this illiberal Government by securing the defeat of the Government nominee, and when Miss Read (from the chair) asked for questions, no attempt was made to heckle the speakers. Similar meetings were held at Stonehouse, Lesmahagow and Strathaven. We have arranged for a series of indoor meetings; the first, held at Coalburn on Saturday, was addressed by Miss Semple and Mrs. Wilson. Much time has been devoted to canvassing, visiting, and talking to the women in their own houses. Without exception we have been cordially received and heard with evident sympathy.

The expenses of this campaign will prove very heavy, as owing to the inclemency of the weather we have been compelled to concentrate on indoor meetings, necessitating additional expenditure. The organiser earnestly appeals to every member to do her best to contribute, however small the amount may be, and gratefully acknowledges the following:—Miss Purcell, 1s. 8d.; Miss A. Broughton, 2s. 6d.; Miss Herriot, 1s. 8d.; Miss Johnston, 1s. 8d.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Killed.

Annie Cotterill, Sheffield, murdered by her lodger on his receiving notice to quit. Man condemned to death at Leeds Assizes.

Mrs. Judkins Senior, murdered by her stepson at Kettering. Man committed suicide. It was stated that he had "never become reconciled" to his father's second marriage.

Mrs. Anderson, Durham, soaked with paraffin by her husband, and then pushed on fire. Burnt to death. Man sentenced at Durham Assizes to 15 years for manslaughter.

Martha Hodgkins, Wolverhampton, found dead in her room with her neck tightly tied to the bedpost. Much violence had apparently been used. Man detained, but discharged; verdict of murder against "some person or persons unknown."

Jessie Dagswell, found dead with no clothes on and heavy marks of violence, at Portsmouth.

Amelia Bradfield, young married woman, of Devonport, shot, and died in ten days. Lover under arrest.

Maud Mulholland, Cardiff, found with four bullet wounds. Died soon after. Lover arrested.

Murderous Assaults.

Mrs. Coughlan, Athlone, found murderously assaulted by her husband on his return home. Lying on floor with her face torn away with bullets, the infant boy dead also, and the grandfather dead a little distance from the house. Brother-in-law in custody.

Mrs. Parrott, murderously assaulted by her husband. Knife-blade broken off in her chest. Husband, charged at Westminster, said he "only kicked" her. Woman begged for mercy for him.

Mrs. Carrigan, Govan, hammered on the head by her husband. Dangerously hurt. One month.

Mrs. Sparks, Walthamstow, throat cut by husband, who then attempted suicide. Both in critical condition.

A VETERAN SUFFRAGIST'S FAREWELL.

All Suffragists will remember with gratitude that when Mark Melford, their veteran and staunch champion, took leave at the Little Theatre, on November 27, of the public he has so long moved to laughter and tears, his final words were a stirring appeal for a true understanding of the meaning of Woman Suffrage and of militancy. Seated in an arm chair on account of physical weakness, and lovingly tended by his daughter, Jackeydawn, as prompter lest memory should fail, Mark Melford summoned up much of his old fire in reciting his telling verses on "The Path of the Pioneer," and the enthusiasm they evoked brought to the pale face of the actor that smile which has so often won the devotion of vast audiences. There was pathos, but there was encouragement in a scene which none could witness unmoved. Many of his old friends rallied round the veteran to make his farewell programme memorable: Mr. Bransby Williams, Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. Willie Rouse, Miss Ida Molesworth, Miss Adele Levey, Miss Mattie Block, and the Sinclairs are some who contributed of their best, and Mark Melford's appearance in an old favourite sketch, "Non-Suited," was greeted with enthusiastic welcome. In spite of severe weakness he conducted, as Mr. Sturgeon, K.C., the breach of promise action with great humour. The laurel wreath presented to him was well won, and Suffragists took farewell of their old friend with the knowledge that as long as life lasts he will be their faithful champion.

A SMART SHIRT.



"JOAN."

All wool and unshrinkable flannel shirt, with smart, well-fitting low collar and button over side effect, trimmed pearl buttons, flat stitched-in sleeves, with pointed cuffs. Price 7/11

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BROMLEY, KENT.

STEAD HOSTELS.

All who value the splendid service rendered to women by Mr. W. T. Stead will be interested to know that the memorial scheme, which is to take the form of Hostels for Women in England and in other countries, has made a good start. A large house in St. George's-road, Westminster, has been bought, and is now being adapted for use as the first Stead Hostel in London. It is a most suitable building for the purpose, very bright and airy, with large reception rooms and balconies, and excellent accommodation for dormitories. It is to be run on the club-system, a separate charge being made for bedrooms or cubicles—the latter 4s. a week—and for food à la carte. It is expected that the house will be opened early in the New Year; already applications have been received, and those who wish to take advantage of the Hostel should send in their names without delay to Miss Josephine Marshall, Salvé, Willifield Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

It is the aim of the Memorial Committee that the first Hostel shall be provided entirely by women, through the special Shilling Fund to which women of many nationalities and professions have already subscribed. Opportunity has been given for all women's societies to take part in the Shilling Fund, but the amount has not yet been reached which would justify the promoters in putting up the inscription:

This Hostel was provided by women of all nationalities and professions in memory of their friend, W. T. Stead.

The honour of starting the first Stead Hostel belongs to Leeds, where one was opened last month by Mrs. Mary Higgs, so well known for her devoted work in the cause of providing homes in the truest sense for women workers.

PLEASE MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

THE VOTE: AN APPEAL.

Dear Readers,—Again I wish to thank all who are responding to my appeal for £100 for the enlargement of THE VOTE, and to say how deeply I appreciate their help. We have not yet attained our goal, and I want to be sure of success by the end of the year. Every gift—large or small—brings it nearer, and I appeal again to all readers to do what they can so that we may go forward with confidence in the New Year.

I need only repeat briefly the reasons for the appeal: the importance of our paper in the work of the League and the demand of advertisers for space in it. During the coming holiday weeks more space, in the ordinary course of business, will be available for reading matter. This will enable us to husband our resources in readiness for subsequent demands.

I renew my appeal for VOTE sellers in all parts of the country. I hear with great pleasure of the success attained in Edinburgh and other places, and am convinced that their good example will encourage others. A definite promise of a stated time each week is what we desire, so that the work may be well organised. Our circulation must go up; it is you who can help.—
Yours sincerely,
C. DESPARD.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	61	17	0
Mrs. Despard (Nine Elms Jumble Sale)	2	0	0
Mrs. Walter Carey	1	0	0

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Fat Jobs for Females.

The Downpatrick Lunatic Asylum authorities are advertising for female attendants—and there should be a rush after the jobs. Each damsel appointed must not exceed thirty-five years of age. Her wages will be £14 a year, for which magnificent sum she will be expected to work from 7 a.m. to 7.20 p.m. daily. If she is a good girl, she will get a half-day holiday once a week and also every third Sunday. What a glorious life! Eighty-six hours a week locked up with lunatics for the magnificent sum of less than 6s. 6d. ! No wonder there are so many girls in Piccadilly! —*John Bull.*

Deptford Factory Girls: Their Wages and Conditions of Labour.

During the last fortnight prominent members of the National Federation of Women Workers and the National Anti-Sweating League, assisted by Mr. R. C. Phillimore, L.C.C., Mr. C. M. Lloyd and several local trade unionists, have been at work among the girls engaged in the confectionery and tin canister trades employed in Deptford factories. Dinner-hour and evening meetings have been held in the proximity of the premises of the Mazawattee Tea Company, the works of Messrs. Francis and Co., and elsewhere, to advise the girls to join the National Federation and to explain the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts, in order that they may take an interest in choosing their representatives on the Board. At these meetings the bonus system in use in some departments of factories has been bitterly attacked, instances being alleged of expert women unable to earn more than about 8s. 6d. per week, and it has also been stated that some of the girls receive no more than 3d. per hour for overtime.

Victory in Furniture Trade Dispute.

Determination has won the battle for the furniture trade operatives in Birmingham, who will be able to return to work next Monday at the end of their eleven weeks' strike in the knowledge that they have not only won substantial advances in wages but also the full recognition of trade unionism. The women polishers are to have an advance in wages—to all piece-workers 5 per cent.; an advance of 1d. per hour is conceded to

workers of nineteen years of age or over up to 4d. per hour, and 1d. per hour to those under nineteen years of age up to 4d. per hour. The code of working rules fixing the standard wages will be signed by the employers, and will be taken as a standard up to which the lower-paid shops will be expected to come. The amount originally asked for was 1d. per hour up to 91d. About 1,500 are affected by the new conditions. The women workers have gained considerably as a result of their determined effort in coming out in support of the men, and their refusal to do work that the men polishers had left behind.

Women's Votes and Women's Wages.

Answering in *The Yorkshire Observer* the statement of Sir William Priestley at a meeting in Bradford, on November 25, that "you cannot mention a single place where women are getting equal wages with men," May E. Riley points out that: "In 1902 Australian women received the Federal Franchise, and in 1903 a Bill for the reform of the Government services was brought in providing for an unequal rate of pay for men and women. Miss Vida Goldstein, the Suffrage leader, and the women voters who act with her brought pressure to bear upon their representatives, with the result that all the inequalities were removed. Men and women now receive equal pay throughout the Federal Public Service of Australia, and the same holds good in New Zealand. Where a minimum wage has been fixed in any trade it is the same for women as for men, both in Australia and New Zealand. In the States of Wyoming and Utah, where the women enjoy the franchise, there is equal pay for teachers, men and women, and in Colorado, another enfranchised State, not only the teachers, but stenographers and clerks, as well as all State employees, are on a footing of equal pay as between the sexes.

In Norway the women get the same wages as men in the Post Office, and since the enfranchisement of women all the high offices of State are thrown open to them, except those of clergymen, consuls, and officers in the army; they are eligible as judges, magistrates, university professors, teachers in the higher schools, and civil servants of all grades. The salaries for these offices are fixed, and women appointed receive the same pay as men; there is no sex discrimination whatever. Your readers will see, therefore, that it was Sir William Priestley who was wrong, and that in the countries above mentioned the franchise has carried with it equal pay for equal work in many employments; and in abolishing the disability of sex with regard to the franchise they have made a beginning of abolishing it with regard to wages."

Braintree Strike Ended.

As a result of a compromise at the last moment the strike of 360 girls at Messrs. Courtauld's artificial silk mills, Braintree, was ended on November 24.

The strikers hoped that when they saw Mr. Courtauld they would get satisfactory concessions. Their interview with him last week-end was satisfactory, and the concessions then granted were such as to increase the wages of the day workers from 9s. or 9s. 6d. to 13s. and 14s. weekly. There were also satisfactory increases for the men.

But the day workers are in a minority. Over 300 girls are on piecework, and their new list prices had to be arranged with Mr. Muhlhauser, the mill manager. These, when examined by the girls at a meeting which lasted two hours, were declared to be unsatisfactory. It was decided to adjourn the meeting for two hours to interview the manager and gain better terms. This was done, and Mr. Courtauld was able to make a compromise. The heroine of the strike is Miss Annie Wiseman, a girl of twenty-two, chosen as leader when the strike began. She has shown wonderful powers of leadership.

A Pioneer in Germany.

Dr. Rachel Hirsch is the first woman physician to attain the rank of professor in Germany. She is an eminent bacteriologist.

Women 'Bus Conductors.

Mr. Thomas A. Edison, the famous electrician, is at the head of a company introducing motor-omnibuses in New York, which will employ women as conductors. It is said they will be politer than male conductors.

Married Women Teachers.

Justice Seabury, of the Supreme Court, New York, ended last month a long and bitter fight when he decided that the New Board of Education, without some express Act of the Legislature, has no right to remove a married woman teacher from the public board schools because she becomes a mother, no matter under what pretext the Board or its superintendents attempt to disguise the dismissal.

The decision was rendered in the case of Mrs. Bridget C. Peixotto, a married teacher, who was dismissed from her school, ostensibly on the ground of "neglect of duty," but in reality because she had become a mother. Justice Seabury declared that such a dismissal was illegal, and questioned whether any law making such an action legal could be enforced.

The Board of Education in New York has steadfastly maintained that women teachers can marry if they choose, but as soon as they become mothers they must automatically resign from the school. Scores of teachers have lost their positions in this way, and the justice or injustice of the Education Board's attitude has been earnestly discussed throughout the country.

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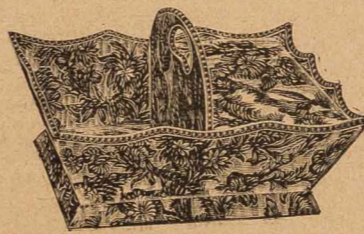


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Covered Articles.
No. 1.—Stationery Racks,
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Price 1/9½.

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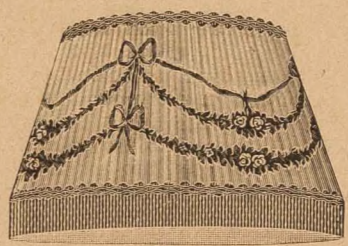


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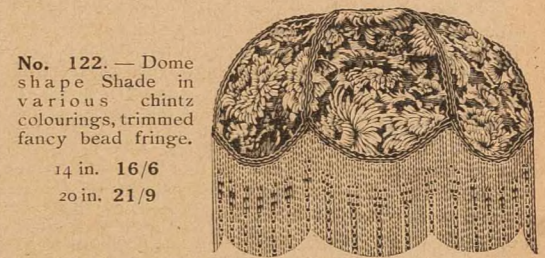
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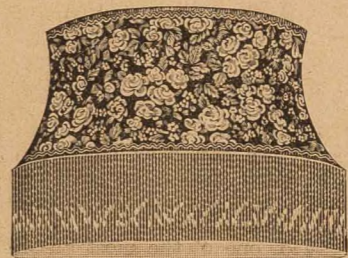
Size closed,
11 by 6½ ins.
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Lined:—
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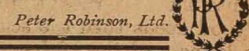
No. 122.—Dome shape Shade in various chintz colourings, trimmed fancy bead fringe.
14 in. 16/6
20 in. 21/9



No. 115.—Handsome silk Shade in black fancy Jap. trimmed black and coloured bead fringe.
14 in. 21/-
20 in. 29/6

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, December 5, 1913.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW.

The Majesty of the Law. That is a word which has often been heard from the lips of men, especially from men in this country. To some of us it may seem that the Law has been playing strange pranks lately. In any case, seeing that this is a phrase-making age, and that there is much base word-coin in circulation, it may be as well to see what the phrase really means. Majesty! The first idea that occurs to us is power in manifestation. A granite rock, standing solitary in the ocean against which the waves break continually in vain; a cataract of waters, swift and unresting, rushing to the precipice and flinging themselves with one leap into the rapids far below. In these there is Majesty—power irresistible in rest and in action.

But Majesty means something more, for power alone though awful, may be ignorant and brutal. The true law makes its appeal to the spiritual side of us. A Christ before His torturers answering never a word, a child in its innocence, a weak human being protesting against the sentence imposed by an unjust tribunal possesses for those who can see below the surface both dignity and majesty; the true law is within them, and to that the human soul instinctively bends. It is possible to imagine such a law in action. Our rulers say it cannot be. The present Home Secretary, when he received a deputation from the Women's Freedom League, and when they complained to him of the inequalities of the law and its unjust administration, was compelled to admit the truth of many of their statements. He said, however, as other feeble and ignorant persons have said before him, that kicking against the pricks is useless. We have to reckon with human nature. But, we ask, what does he know, what do any of those who plead this paltry excuse know, of human nature as it is? If they knew; if they had read and studied the records of the past they might have found out that, in all recorded time there have been men and women who have beheld the true law in vision and who have translated it into action.

In the Book of the Dead, one of the most ancient of the Egyptian Scriptures, we have given us the picture of a tribunal where Justice reigns. We see Rhadamanthus, the Judge between the world-wilderness and the abodes of the Blessed. To him are hastening the ghosts of the Dead, each carrying his own record with him. Before the Judge stands Justice—a gloriously proportioned figure. She holds the scales. Good deeds are thrown into one scale, ill deeds into the other. The Judge, calm and impartial, and the trembling souls stand watching, while in each case judgment is given unflinchingly. No excuse is permitted, no favour is shown, neither severity nor compassion is exercised. Those whose bad deeds out-balance the good go back into the wilderness to retrieve their errors; those whose good deeds turn the scale go forward into the light and gladness of the higher worlds.

In that ancient Scripture we have the human demand and the human response. It is the inner voice. "Stand up on thy feet like a man for I will demand of thee and answer thou Me." Nothing more majestic has ever been conceived. There, on the one hand, is the law, based on justice, eternal as the heavens; on the other—the penalty, as immutable, as certain as the effects that with unerring regularity follow upon natural causes. Such a law will win respect, will in the end command joyful obedience.

Compare this with the laws of our country, as to-day they are made and administered. Certain offences—perhaps the most serious of all, certainly the most far-reaching in their effects—go altogether unpunished. Rotten houses and tenements may bring about disease and even death to the unfortunate people who are compelled by poverty to dwell in them. When fever is abroad and, for the sake of the whole community, a slum area is swept away slum-landlords are not prosecuted; they are compensated. When, either through lack of nourishment or through insanitary conditions in workshops, young men and women perish untimely, employers, even if as in a late case, they have disobeyed regulations, are not penalised. A few shillings a week may be paid for the full time of an adult woman; she may die of inanition, but no one is brought to justice. These little lives it would seem are of no account in the eyes of the law.

To certain other offences certain penalties are attached. Robbery of the rich by the poor; seditious speaking as interpreted by the officers of the law; destruction of property; obstructing the police in what they imagine to be their duty; holding meetings at illegal times and places; breaking up legal assemblies with violence; committing acts calculated to endanger human life; resisting taxation: such are the offences to which penalties are attached; and, as the miserable history of the last few years testifies, so far as unknown women and obscure men are concerned, these have been inflicted and carried out with extreme severity. But how about others who are not obscure—persons with powerful friends, with money and influence behind them? Surely the one vindication of judicial punishment is that it is for the good of the community, deterring the unruly from crime, and so preserving peace. But to make it effective, it must be inevitable and equal. Is it so here? Nay, is not the very contrary the case? In Great Britain not principle, not even legal precedent, governs the decisions of those who make and administer the law. Caprice, favour, influence, temperament, political opinions, sex—all these play their part in the courts of so-called justice.

We do not speak without book. Lately we have had some glaring examples of injustice. There are, it would appear, some privileged persons in the community. They are men; they are young; they are preparing for examinations which, we presume, are to fit them to take their place as healers, rulers, employers of the people. In the meantime they may, if the fancy takes them, destroy property, endanger human life, try to terrorise peaceable citizens, and because they happen to be the sons of persons belonging to the ruling and employing classes, because they are men and not women they are allowed to go scot free.

It is no exaggeration to say that a dastardly crime was planned by the students who made an attack upon the great meeting at the Albert Hall a fortnight ago. They attempted deliberately to throw that vast, packed hall into darkness. What, given the excited state of the audience, the attacks of the disturbers, and the difficulty in the dark of knowing friend from foe, the result would have been had they succeeded it is impossible to imagine. Yet, in face of overwhelming evidence, they were discharged. Youthful folly, almost approaching wickedness, was the comment of the magistrate. But nothing followed.

In Edinburgh our own offices were raided—entered with violence. The culprits, also students, were arrested. They made full confession; they even apologised for

what they had done, stating that they did not know at the time of their attack that the office belonged to the Women's Freedom League. The same result followed: they were discharged.

Let us imagine that women and not men—Suffragettes, not students—had committed such offences; that, for instance, when a great political meeting, full of explosive human material, with Asquith or Lloyd George as speaker, was being held in the same hall, they had made an attempt on the electric power station and been caught in the act. Would they have received the same award? It is easy enough to answer the question. Why, the whole country would have rung with the horror of it. Journalists, their pens dipped in vitriol, would have pictured what might have been, would have called out for drastic punishment to check these misguided women in their dangerous antics; and sentences of imprisonment for months or years would have been passed upon the offenders. And this is the Law which we are taught to obey and admire! We ask—is it possible that we can respect either our law or our law-givers?

Yet, with deep sadness, we acknowledge that the loss of reverence for law is a national loss of the deepest significance. That the moral and the civil law are not identical we are perfectly well aware. But we know that the only safeguard for the people against oppression is that in its wisdom, its protection of the weak, in its righteousness and equal dealing the law by which they consent to be governed shall ever more nearly approach that model. Where respect for the law fails, as history has shown us again and again, we shall have rebellion, physical force to repress it and, later, either of those two deadly things: submission to the tyranny of a power growing more and more irresponsible; or anarchy—a breaking of all bonds by the governed. Into such a blind alley the folly and supineness of the Government said to be Liberal, but illiberal in the extremest sense of the word, is driving us.

Were this all we might despair; but, in the general unrest, in the fierce and prolonged demand for justice—an equal law for rich and poor, for man and woman, for employer and employed—in the spirit of rebellion against judicial iniquity cloaked with hypocritical pretence of righteousness we find hope. Women are awaking; men, the workers, are awaking. They are beginning to perceive that their cause is common, that their interests are one. If only we stand together, steadfast and strong—women without prejudice, men without fear—a new law may be built up amongst us, a law based in righteousness, and firmly established in the truth of Nature, which men and women of all callings and professions may joyfully obey. C. DESPARD.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER.

"We wait," they said, with eyes aghast,
"We wait, and bear as best we may
The tedium of the toilsome way
That upward winds to Freedom's height."

So spoke that gallant band and true;
And now we read with thrilling breath
How women face to face with death
No shadow of surrender knew.

O sorely tried! what shall we say
Of those high hearts who went before,—
Those thrice heroic souls who bore
The heat and burden of the day!

Our baby hands were never soiled;
For us they fought, and bled, and wept;
We in our rosy slumbers slept
While they with ceaseless ardour toiled.]

Now in these after years we know
The pride of fuller, larger life,
And view, remote from din of strife,
Their battlefields of long ago.

ISOBEL MACDONALD.

A FOOL FROM MARS.

What under the sun was it? Slowly, yet steadily, it neared the earth, as the big clock tolled the midnight hour. It was not an aeroplane. What could it be?

At last it rested on the city pavement. Out stepped a being that looked not like an inhabitant of the earth, and yet was on't. He accosted a passer-by.

"Is this the planet Earth? Am I in Canada?" he inquired.

"You are," asserted the other, edging off.

"The gods be praised!" answered the traveller. "What a journey! I am the first from Mars to have reached Earth, and the glorious British Empire, that mighty empire, famed far and wide through the solar system for freedom and justice. I have come," he continued, "to investigate into your social, political and educational systems, and to ascertain the secret of your marvellous success."

"Ah!" spoke the citizen, a proud light in his eye. "Justice is the great keynote, the one mighty influence that permeates and penetrates into every activity of this glorious empire. It will be my pleasure to accompany you on the morrow. Shall we start with the schools?"

Ten o'clock in the morning: Excitement ran fluid in one of Canada's public schools. They were to receive the lieutenant-governor and a delegate from Mars.

"I see," said the Martian, addressing the principal, "that you have two classes of beings on your planet, the male and the female. You, who have had so many under your personal supervision, can tell me how the sexes compare mentally."

"Well," began the principal, an easy assurance in his voice. "scientific research has always taught us that the brain of the male is heavier than that of the female, therefore we conclude that the male is superior mentally and physically. Hence it is that we endeavour to treat the female as a delicate, dependent organism unfit for the cruelties of public life. We try to care for her in the home, and to show her every courtesy in everyday life. For instance, did you see our trolleys. Well, now, supposing a female enters a crowded car, immediately you will see a male rise, touch his hat, and insist on the female accepting his seat. This is but one of a thousand incidents I might cite to show you the great humanity and veneration which we feel toward the weaker sex."

Just then a mighty and melodious strain broke over the hushed school, as a classroom door opened and closed:—

Blest Isle with matchless beauty crowned,
And manly hearts to guard the fair!

The visitor asked abruptly: "May I see your work, and your workers?"

They entered a classroom of boys, a male teacher in charge. The Martian explored far and wide into the intricate and multifarious mentalities, and came forth radiant.

"Ah!" he ejaculated, "what a mighty field is there for psychological exploration! Now, I would like to compare the females, to see in what respect they fall short, and why."

Girls and a female teacher. The Martian proceeded to dash forth his searchlights into the illimitable immensities in the mystic land of brain, to estimate the size and number of vacant rooms therein. A puzzled expression came over his face. Suddenly he turned a masterly and questioning eye upon his hosts.

"Are ye blind?" he asked poignantly. "My friends, behold before you mentalities of prolific fecundity—equal to and often surpassing those of the male. You have here Madame Curies and Jane Addams. Are these ordinary beings, or of some rare and exotic birth?"

"They are extraordinarily ordinary."

"Then let me suggest," said the visitor, "that the British Empire remove the placards, 'Vacant Rooms,'

from off its female population. Do these children work for money?" he added.

"Oh, my, no! Marks!" answered the surprised principal.

"Are the classes paid equally, according to quality and quantity of work?"

"Certainly, equal work, equal pay. I fancy I see the outraged parent rotten-egging us if we offered his girl fifty marks for what we gave the boy one hundred!"

"Now, as to your instructors. These classes are the same grade, I see. The instructors do the same work. Of course, it is equal work, equal pay."

The two Canadians stared blankly at each other. At last the lieutenant-governor spoke:

"You don't seem to understand. You see, one is a male, the other a female. There is a difference."

"I fail to see it, unless it be that the male has a healthy laziness about him, while the female seems overly conscientious. Does she get the preference in remuneration?"

"Such a fool!" said the principal, under his breath.

"The male," he answered doggedly, "begins on ten or eleven hundred yearly, the female on six hundred. Until this year her minimum was four hundred. Her maximum is one thousand, his from two thousand up. You see, some day he will have to keep a family; he must prepare."

"The more children a man has, the more salary, then. Is that it?" queried the Martian.

"I'm keeping a family now," piped the shy female voice of the teacher.

"Then why do they not raise your salary?" asked the apparently puzzled being.

The female clasped her hands humbly, meekly remarking:

"You fool from Mars! I'm only a woman."

"Are the principals always of the male sex?" said the "Fool from Mars."

"Almost invariably. Corporal punishment is still in vogue. It would be highly improper and inconsiderate to expect the delicate female organism to pound obstreperous, sprouting males," answered the impatient principal.

"Just so, just so!" said the Martian. "The injustice to woman would not be in keeping with your noble England's laws. But may I suggest a scheme to you along an economical line? Since that is the only palpable reason why females cannot act as principals, why not reduce expenses by placing a few in charge of your schools at the regular rate, and compromise with your famous pugilist, Jack Jackson, to make regular rounds for pounding purposes, by way of practice for him? He would make a far better job of it than the intellectual male supervisor. Also, let me add that, on my return to Mars, our people will look upon you as you look upon the heathen Chinese. I leave post haste to send missionaries to you. Farewell to the Land of Freedom and Justice!"

And away he shot in his Marsoplane.—*The Woman's Journal*.

PERSONALLY I am inclined to think that the chief function of the women's vote has been to bring almost automatically into practical politics social measures in which women are directly interested. Whatever political function the women possess is probably exercised chiefly in the audience rooms of the various Ministers of the Crown. . . . A certain great Antipodean statesman was notoriously careless of deputations of women until the women's franchise gave them equal political importance with the men. This illustrates a point which the protagonists of the movement in Great Britain have been endeavouring to make for some time.—BISHOP FRODSHAM, writing on Australia in *The Nineteenth Century*.

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC:

An Explanation for Boys.

By ENNIS RICHMOND.

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Price 6d. (post free).

Special Terms to Suffrage Shops.

WHAT THEY DIDN'T SAY.

The following extracts are not to be found in the works of the authors quoted below:—

V.

Lord Macaulay: Life of Frederick the Great.

But small as was this Cabinet, it probably contained a greater number of disaffected members than were to be found in any of the ranks of its enemies. In truth, there was hardly a politician in England who doubted that the conflict must ultimately be terminated by its complete prostration. Nor was its leader's opinion very different. In their camp were certainly to be found the jealousy, the dissension, the slackness inseparable from coalitions; and the vices which are found in all extensive confederacies, had long since begun to show themselves. Moreover, it was this Cabinet which had had the hardihood to revive the cruel and absurd practice of torture, and that of the most revolting nature. Indeed, the principle which pervaded this Government's whole policy was this—that the more severely critics are treated, the more easy is it to blind and propitiate friends. For this policy there was no excuse, for grievously as they erred, they erred in direct opposition to the best intellects of the age.

VI.

Shakespeare: A Minister's Soliloquy on Hunger-striking.

To feed or not to feed them, that is the question:—
Whether 'twere policy to let them go;
Or to permit their wilful abstinence,
And so, by starving, end them?—To starve,—to die,—

No more;—and, by their death, to say we end
By that, their insolent impunity,
And all their clamour,—'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die,—to starve;—
And let all England hear; ay, there's the rub;
To think what the electorate may say
When we must own we've let our prisoners die,
Must give us pause; There's the respect
Makes of a minister's life calamity:
For who would be the mark of public wit;
To feel the scrutinising, public eye
On every action; weigh his every word
Lest critics take exception; were it not
He tastes the joy of just a little more
Than a poor, yearly, bare four hundred pounds.
But here the prisoners are, and will not eat,
And we dare neither keep nor let them go,
Feed them, nor yet, complaisant, let them starve:
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all.

VII.

Gilbert White: Natural History of Selborne.

It has been my good fortune to have had neighbours whose duties have led them towards the study of the ways and habits of politicians. These birds, which are quite common, I believe, in all parts of the country, are nevertheless extremely interesting in their habits. There is one propensity belonging to them that is very remarkable; I mean, their surprising readiness in the making of promises. There is never a desire expressed in their presence but they are ready to promise its fulfilment; and yet Nature, in this instance, seems to have planted in them a faculty which can serve no useful end, since she has only granted to them the shortest of memories.

I find, however, upon further observation, that this faculty does serve an extremely useful end, especially during the season of elections, since, as the poet so finely observes:—
"Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

VIII.

Chaucer: Prologue to the Canterbury Tales

A lady was there, soothly as I guess,
And she was honoured for her worthiness,
For she would work, if it lay in her might,
Right hard to helpen every poor wight;
But it were any person obstinate,
What so he were of high or low estate,
Him would she snubben sharply for the nonys,
E'en sergeants of the Law, both war and wise.
God loved she best, with all her whole heart,
At all times, were it to her gain or smart,
And then her neighbour, rightly as herself;
For Christe's love, and His Apostles twelve,
She taught, but first she followed it herself.

H. S.

RUSSIAN WOMEN.

Mr. Chesterton has just told us "that so little does he think of the government and administration of this country, that he would sooner trust himself to the mercy of a Russian jury than a British one." We who are watching the Women's Movement are wondering if Mr. Chesterton is altogether wrong, if in autocratic Russia greater justice would not be shown to the women political prisoner than is meted out to her here. We believe at least she would be treated in the same manner as a man political prisoner, neither worse nor better.

In the last few years the position of the Russian woman has improved by leaps and bounds. Russia was the first country in Europe to open its universities to women. As early as 1861, Alexander II. issued a decree declaring that "the girls' gymnasia (secondary schools) will prepare girls for the universities, so that in future girls and boys may enjoy university education in common." It was not until the year 1869 that a similar privilege was accorded to British women. And it was fully twenty years later before Germany allowed her daughters to enter the university. All branches of learning, with one exception, are open to women in Russia, the exception being theology, which Russian women may neither study nor practice.

As regards medicine, their position is on an exact equality with men. There are in all 3,000 women doctors, and in addition 16,000 diplomatic "felchschers" or doctors' assistants.

In law, too, they are in advance of this country. Quite recently it has been decided that women may study in the Justiciary Courts. There are already 187 women law students and forty lawyers. These lawyers are trained precisely as men are trained, but the jealousy of the Senate prevents them practising. The women are hopeful of soon surmounting this obstacle, and they intend before long to appear in court, not in the first place as lawyers, but as "friends" of the accused. In Russia, if a prisoner cannot afford a lawyer, he may plead himself, or get a friend to do so for him. In this way, as friends of the prisoner, women will enter the courts, and show the world that they are quite as fit as men to grapple with the intricacies of the law.

The woman teacher in Russia compares well with teachers in other countries. She can earn her degree and certificates, and has then the right to teach in either boys' or girls' gymnasia. The Duma has declared that equal work must have equal pay, and so men and women are paid alike. Women who have failed to obtain a university degree, but who have passed certain examinations, are also entitled to the same pay as men.

After many difficulties women have been allowed to study as architects and as engineers. These courses were first thrown open to them in 1909. Twenty students came to the first classes; there are now nearly a hundred. The first nine graduated in 1912, and immediately they all found work. But like the lawyers, though fully qualified, they find great difficulty in obtaining the right to practice, for the Senate puts every kind of difficulty in their way. But the women are going to fight the Senate, and we can only wish them every success in their struggle.

Many Russian women are busy to-day helping in the struggles for the emancipation of their sex. Madame Ekaterina has just offered to pay a third of the cost of a woman's university in Moscow. In the world of letters, art, and music, Russian women are taking a prominent part. Russian actresses and dancers are famous all the world over, and all the world honours Madame Curie for her notable achievements in the realm of science. In the political world, where justice is denied impartially to men and women, there have been found many women who have fought and suffered for the cause of liberty. Men and women together are struggling, and both find the path of the pioneer leads frequently to prison and to exile. But there, as here, the dawn is near, and they,

too, are confident that before long justice must triumph, and they believe, as we do, that education leads directly to liberty.

E. G. M.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

A large audience welcomed Mr. Malcolm Mitchell as the principal speaker on November 26. Dealing with the Suffrage situation as portrayed by Mr. Lloyd George to recent deputations, Mr. Mitchell declared that it was not a fact that the question had made no progress in the country, but he laid stress on the value of the support of the voter. A situation must be created which will compel the Government to bring in a Bill. Liberal voters must realise that woman suffrage is the most imperative and immediate change now needed and refuse to support anti-suffrage candidates. With reference to Sir Victor Horsley's experiences as Liberal candidate, Mr. Mitchell said there was good evidence for the belief that the opposition began six months ago through a circular signed by anti-suffragist members of the Cabinet.

Miss Boyle, speaking of her police court experiences with Miss Murray as a result of the meeting on the Horse Guards' Parade on November 16, said that even the Liberal Government must have felt ashamed to put two suffragists in prison while Sir Edward Carson and Jim Larkin went free. It was a remarkable climb down, and she thought the best reply would be to hold such meetings every week wherever they liked. Mrs. Tanner presided, and made an interesting and amusing speech.

THE NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Glasgow centre of the Federation has sent the following letter to the Lord Bishop of Kensington:—

My Lord,—We are requested by the members of the Glasgow Centre of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage to express their sense of gratitude at the determined stand that you have taken upon the subject of Women's Suffrage, and its shameful treatment by His Majesty's Government.

We are thankful to you, my Lord, for the lead that you are giving to Church people in England, and beg to inform you that we are petitioning all the Presbyteries of Scotland with a view to arousing them to a sense of their great responsibility to this question of justice and humanity.—We are, my Lord, yours obediently,

ANDREW SLOAN, Hon. Treasurer.

Nov. 28.

A. M. SERVICE, Hon. Secretary.

A similar resolution was sent from the Midlothian Centre, signed by N. Brown (hon. sec.) and Alex. Orr (hon. treas.). The monthly meeting of the Northern Men's Federation (Midlothian Centre) was held on November 27. The large attendance of members, the enthusiasm which prevailed, and the determined energy shown by all, testified to the life and vigour of the Federation. In place of the open-air meetings which have been held regularly since the end of August, a campaign of work was agreed upon for the winter in the different Parliamentary Divisions of the city. Three or four indoor meetings will be held weekly. Councillor Crawford, a member of the Federation, moved a resolution in favour of granting the franchise to women in the Edinburgh Town Council, on December 2. Councillor Bruce Lindsay seconded.

THE WOMAN'S THEATRE.

The cast for *Woman on Her Own*, by Brieux, includes the following:—Lena Ashwell, Di Forbes, Nancy Price, Lillias Waldegrave, Marie Linden, Elizabeth Fagan, Suzanne Sheldon, Sarah Brooke, Christine Silver, Cicely Hamilton, Beatrice Wilson, Blanche Stanley, Doris Digby, Vera Vallis, Shirley King, Charles Kenyon, A. S. Homewood, Cyril Ashford, Norman V. Norman, Tewless Llewellyn, William Stack, Clarence Blakiston, Benedict Butler, Leonard Calvert, Arthur Bachner, Jack Renshaw.

For *A Gaudet*, by Björnson, the cast will be as follows:—O. B. Clarence, Edyth Olive, Ernita Lascelles, Dorothy Warren, Charles Vane, Phyllis Manners, T. Harry Irvine, Rupert Harvey, Everard Vanderlip, Alfred Bucklaw, Barbara Everest (on Saturday).

The "Week" begins on December 8. There will be performances every evening and matinées on Wednesday and Saturday. Apply for tickets at once to Mrs. Marion Holmes, W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

MRS. DE FONBLANQUE'S LECTURE: A CORRECTION.—By confusing the good works of two sisters, whose splendid services to the Cause of Votes for Women are known throughout the length and breadth of the land, Mrs. de Fonblanque was credited in the account given in our last issue of her lecture at the Caxton Hall on Wednesday, November 19, with organising the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. This is not correct: it is her sister, Mrs. Amcliffe Sennett, to whom the credit is due. We regret the mistake, but are grateful to both sisters for the excellent and novel schemes they have carried out for the advancement of our Cause.

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER.

With reference to the appointment of Mr. Aitken as the children's minister, announced a few days ago in a shame-faced kind of way, Mrs. Eustace Miles writes to us thus:—

"Delightful as it is to think that the children are going to have a Minister all of their very own, does it not seem rather incongruous that a man should have been appointed to look after the children's welfare? Is not this woman's work? For who could do this splendid work better than a woman could who is herself the mother of children?"

"I should think there is no public appointment which is more suited to be filled by a woman—and a mother—than this one, of ministering to the needs of the children, and of 'keeping an eye' on the little babies in public creches and in baby farms. I hope that Mr. Aitken will also 'keep an eye' on the babies' bottles, and see that they are kept clean for the poor mites!"

"With all the splendid women there are in the world, surely one could have been found for this distinctly womanly post! For ministering to the children is woman's work."

When we remember that the United States has its Children's Bureau, with Miss Jane Addams at the head, and an organisation hard at work gathering important information, the British Government may well stand abashed when it appoints a man to do this work.

THANKS, AND YET AGAIN THANKS.

Mrs. Despard and members of the Nine Elms Branch of the Women's Freedom League are able to hand over £12 (£10 to Headquarters and £2 to THE VOTE enlargement fund) as a result of the Jumble Sale held at 2, Currie-street, on November 27 and 28. They wish very heartily to thank those who so kindly contributed to their stock and to express their deep sense of gratitude to those who gave them personal help. They hope that the Jumble Sale which proved so popular, will be an annual event at Nine Elms. It gives them much satisfaction to contribute their quota to the general work of the League.

IN HYDE PARK.

On Sunday, November 30, a large and successful meeting was held in Hyde Park, the speakers being Miss Underwood and Miss Eunice Murray. Miss Underwood told what had taken place at Mrs. Harvey's sale at Bromley. Miss Eunice Murray explained why we went to Downing-street, and the subsequent proceedings at Bow-street. The audience was highly appreciative, and evidently agreed that to-day we had three laws, one for Sir Edward Carson, one for Mr. Larkin, and yet another for voteless women. They fully agreed with the speakers that the Liberal Government must bear the responsibility for all that happened through its folly and mismanagement, and that it must sooner or later surrender to justice.

The *Christian Commonwealth* is publishing as a penny pamphlet A. E.'s memorable speech in the Albert Hall on November 1, his famous "Open Letter" to the Dublin employers, and his letter printed in *The Times* of November 13. The proceeds will be devoted to the Dublin Strike Fund. Copies may be obtained from *The Christian Commonwealth*, Salisbury-square, London.

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It is undoubtedly a fact that the mineral water treatment of rheumatism, gout, gouty eczema, gravel and other uric acid troubles, is most efficacious.

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Excellent for the Complexion. An ideal Aperient. Of all Chemists, or The Vitaregis Water Co., 39, Aldermanbury, E.C., price 1s. 3d. per large bottle. —[ADVT.]

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Towards Liberty. By Lucy Re-Bartlett. (Longmans, Green and Co. 1s. net.)

In "Towards Liberty," Mrs. Re-Bartlett brings together three essays dealing with the momentous struggle now taking place. The line of argument is indicated by the sub-titles: "The Freedom of Woman," "The Philosophy of Excess," "The Evolution of the Brute." The trend of each essay is towards that liberty of which the fundamental note is struck in the passage, "The truth shall make you free."

In a few words fitly chosen, the author comprehensively depicts the important and more controversial aspects of this strenuous fight for freedom. Not many people, we believe, will be able to read this clear-sighted, broad-minded and noble presentment of the case, without gaining some amount of tolerance, some amount of understanding, and even some amount of sympathy with those whose goal may not be their goal, or whose methods of attaining it may not be their methods.

But, perhaps, what gives to the book its peculiar charm, and awards to it a special place in the literature of the movement, is its just appreciation of the values of Militant Suffragists, Anti-Militants, and Anti-Suffragists in their relation to one another, to man, and to the advance of the race. It is shown how the very differences in woman might have worked advantageously, and been a factor in a speedier emancipation, "had all worked positively and not negatively."

In affirmation," says Mrs. Re-Bartlett, "all have been wise. The Anti-Suffragist has been right in so far as she has maintained the sanctities of the home, the Suffragist in pointing to those other sanctities which must be added to the home, the militant in affirming that when we think a thing right, we must not only talk, but be ready to bleed and die for it. Each of these sections of womanhood throughout these years has been asserting a positive truth, and had each devoted their forces to what they affirmed alone, it is easy to see how all collectively might have contributed to the current of liberty. . . . But before this could be, . . . it was necessary that all women should be lit by one same spirit—that true instinct for liberty which rises from spiritual maturity."

It would seem that the presence of an instinct for liberty manifests itself in a discernment that makes for unity by appraising differences in temperament at their right value. In the spiritually mature a power has been evolved that eliminates non-essentials, and welds, for the common good, indispensable differences into a unity of effort and effect—a unity in diversity.

Mrs. Re-Bartlett points out that an inability to grasp the value of liberty, and an insensibility to the worth of those who hazard all to obtain it, are signs of spiritual immaturity. The path of self-development is "across much pain." Generally speaking, a realisation of the rights of others begins at home. That is to say, the wrong that has not been brought home to an individual's own experience will be unperceived or ignored.

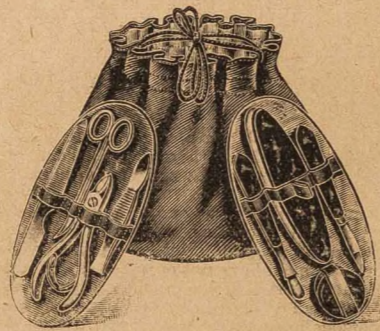
How the lack of what Mrs. Re-Bartlett calls the "life touch" has affected the fight and the fighters for freedom is expressed in the following words:—

"When militancy first broke out, . . . what a mighty strength it would have meant if every individual constitutionalist had deeply understood and passionately sympathised with the militant movement. Then we should have had the militants rousing thought, and the constitutionalists explaining and consolidating. There would have been no mention of 'fanaticism,' but only of courage, truth, and the new womanhood which these new virtues indicated. . . . In the quiet woman who thus 'explained,' men would have found often that same

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quality of courage which has compelled in many an unwilling admiration for the Suffragette—such courage as is born of an entire indifference to personal pain, a new vision of truth, and an unswerving readiness to serve it."

In her estimate of the fitness of women for political power, Mrs. Re-Bartlett does not confound, as so many critics do, a readiness which is of the intellect and a readiness which is of the spirit, for she says:—

"Humanly speaking, she (woman) has a perfect right to her vote to-day—she is at least as ready for it as man is, for if she fails in some qualities, he fails in others, and many of them are points which even politically she could supplement."

The author of these essays considers that it is the will in woman which is particularly defective. We would suggest that her will power is misapplied, rather than defective. How often do we see a strong will used for self-repression, when it should be directed to the self-expression that makes for development. Such a misdirection of energy is a natural consequence of woman's state of dependence. The state of dependence explains, too, we think, "the facile agreement" the author notices, and deprecates.

Mrs. Re-Bartlett regrets that the Suffragette sometimes likens her movement to Irish insurrections and other acts of violence. But does not the Suffragette make the comparison with regard to one aspect of the struggle only? Has not the movement for the emancipation of her sex many sides to it, and as many courts of appeal? Does she not appeal to Caesar as well as to God? If she believes the opposition to Woman's Suffrage due to spiritual immaturity, she must choose such arguments as will affect the spiritually immature, for unless she speaks in the language understood by the person addressed, she will not arrest his attention. To the politician the political side will appeal, to the lawyer the legal, to the doctor the medical, to the mother the maternal, and to the spiritually mature in all classes the spiritual.

"Towards Liberty" is a book to be read many times; every-one should possess it. A. W. LANCE.

Nan and Other Pioneer Women of the West. By Francis E. Herring. (London: Francis Griffiths, 3s. 6d.)

"Nan and Other Pioneer Women" take the reader back to the British Columbian life of forty or fifty years ago. These sketches, grim and gay, are the more interesting as being "the result of many reminiscences of which careful note was kept by the writer for at least thirty years."

SUFFRAGIST CHURCHWOMEN'S PROTEST.

A third instalment of signatures to the protest has now been sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Names are being collected for a further instalment. Anyone desiring to know particulars of the protest, which involves practical action on the part of those who sign it, is invited to write to the hon. sec., Suffragist Churchwomen's Protest Committee, 21, Downside-crescent, Hampstead, N.W.

THE PIONEER PLAYERS.

We heartily congratulate the Pioneer Players on the success of their performance last Sunday evening at the Little Theatre. "The Street," by Mrs. Antonia R. Williams, is an arresting study of conflict between character and circumstances, of circumstances strong enough to be responsible for broken lives, but not sufficiently so to crush a woman's character. The part of Margaret Martin was strongly acted by Ellen O'Malley, and great credit too, is due to the acting of Jean Cavendish as Violet Martin, Harcourt Williams as Owen Ford, Moffat Johnston as John Castleton, and Constance Elgin as Mrs. Martin. But it is difficult to understand how a woman of Margaret's personality could have easily tolerated, much less pined for, the affection of a woman of the type of Mrs. Martin with her irresponsibility and sordid greed.

"The King's Wooing," by Norreys Connell, which followed "The Street," is a charming little play, and most delightfully acted by Iris Hoey and Ben Webster.

OWING to a printer's error, Signor Marinetti is said to hate "lore and romanticism," the word ought to have been LOVE; these wise young Futurists hate the exaggerated worship of sex and the sentimental eroticism between man and woman: *A bas le clair de la lune* and the foolish vows of foolish lovers made to be broken.

CHRISTMAS FUN NOW.—Christmas begins early nowadays. Its fun and jollity are in full swing at Messrs. Peter Robinson's and it is not only children who will enjoy a trip in the "Dream, Land Express," which takes you through such delightful scenes in Toyland, from which you return laden with presents—for others. You cannot help it: they are irresistible. They please girls, boys, and grown-ups. There are airships and aeroplanes—with Father Christmas sailing down from Cloudland—smugglers' caves, water-babies in boats, all the old friends, such as Robinson Crusoe and the Man in the Moon; and as for dolls—well, they are bewitching. A novelty for a man's present is a tie-rack for 2s. 11d., to hold forty ties; and if you have stud pockets, 3s. 6d. For women the choice is unlimited. There are artistic hair and neck ornaments; the "P.R." gloves are always acceptable; and as for handkerchiefs—but the best thing is to begin Christmas at once by spending the day at Peter Robinson's!



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LONDON AND SUBURBS.
Fri., Dec. 5.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. 7.30 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 9.—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, The Arcade, High-street, Meeting, 8 p.m.
Speaker: Stewart Robertson, Esq., M.A.
Wed., Dec. 10. Caxton Hall. Christmas Presents Sale, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. 3.30, H. Baillie Weaver, Esq. on "Male Cant about Female Violence." Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Admission 6d.
Tues., Dec. 16.—TOTTENHAM MUNICIPAL HALL, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Alison Neilans and Mr. John Scurr. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.
Fri., Dec. 12.—VOTE Sellers' Rally, 1, Robert-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.
PROVINCES.
Fri., Dec. 5.—Middlesbrough. Wilstop House, Roman-road. Christmas Party. Tickets 1s. South Shields.—12, Wellington-street. Drawing Room Meeting, 3 p.m. Miss Anna Munro. Sunderland.—Borough Hotel. Open-air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Miss Munro.
Sun., Dec. 7.—South Shields, Labour Hall, Chapter-row, Meeting. Miss Munro.
Dec. 8-11.—West Hartlepool. Miss Anna Munro.
Mon., Dec. 8.—Burnage. Garden Village, Branch Meeting, Middlesbrough.—Branch Meeting.
Thurs., Dec. 11.—Liverpool, Lynwood Congregational Church. Mock Election. Independent Woman Candidate: Miss Janet Heyes. Birmingham. Bull Ring. Open-air Meeting, noon. Miss Boyle. Drawing Room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Percy Adams), 14, Vernon-road, Edgbaston. *Speaker:* Miss Boyle. Chair: Mr. Percy Adams.
Fri., Dec. 12.—Bolton, Lecture Hall. Public Meeting. Miss Anna Munro.
Mon., Dec. 15.—Gravesend. The Labour Hall, 8 p.m. Public Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss Eunice Murray. Burnage, Garden Village, Branch Meeting. Middlesbrough. Whist Drive, Unitarian School-room. Tickets 1s.
Mon., Dec. 22.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Janet Heyes.
Tues., Dec. 23.—Middlesbrough, Victoria Hall, Christmas Tree Party, 7.30 to 12 p.m. Short speeches by Miss Janet Heyes, Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss W. M. Jones. Music, Dancing, Games, &c. Tickets, 1s. each.

SCOTLAND

S. Lanark By-Election Campaign, Daily Meetings in District.
Fri., Dec. 5.—Paisley, Abbey Close. Open-air Meeting, 7.45 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Shennan. Trinity Halls, Central Halls, Branch Meeting, 8.15 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Helen McLachlan. New Lanark. Public Hall, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss A. B. Jack and Miss McLachlan.
Sat., Dec. 6.—Lesmahagow, Stonehouse, Carlisle, Strathaven. Open-air Meetings.
Mon., Dec. 8.—Stonehouse, Townhead Schools, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Reid and Miss Broughton.
Wed., Dec. 10.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Discussion on "The Truth About Woman," to be introduced by Dr. Aimée Gibbs.
Sat., Dec. 13.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, Christmas Sale, 3 p.m. Admission free. Tea 6d.
Wed., Dec. 17.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m. "At Home."

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

Will all members and friends who have promised refreshments for our social on Saturday, December 6, please send their contributions to the office between 11 and 12.45 on the morning of December 6, or to Shirley House School, St. Augustine's-avenue, where the social will be held during the afternoon? Mrs. Ackroyd's address on "Unemployment," given at our weekly "At Home" on November 27, was based on the recommendations of the Minority Report of the recent Poor-law Commission. It was an excellent address and led to an interesting discussion.

Mid-London.

Will all members who have not already paid their Branch subscriptions for 1913 kindly send them as soon as possible to Miss Hunt, 1, Robert-street, as she wishes to send in capitation fees? Our monthly business meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, December 5, at 1, Robert-street, by which date also we should like to receive all contributions to the Christmas Presents Sale.

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.

The meeting at the Church of the Seers was crowded on Monday and Miss Hare's speech on "The Occult Meaning of Woman's Suffrage" made a great impression and resulted in new members joining the Branch. Mrs. Budd's drawing-room meeting was well attended and Miss Adams' speech aroused a good deal of discussion. Miss Gregory ably filled the chair and three new members joined. The committee are "At Home" to members and friends on Saturday, December 6,

at 8 p.m., when Miss Grace Nightingale will give a lecture-recital on "The Painter-Poets." Refreshments 8-8.30. There will be a working women's meeting on December 15, and Miss Hare would be glad of contributions towards the tea.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Mrs. Speck read an excellent paper on "The Rights of Mothers" at our fortnightly meeting on Tuesday, November 25. A number of strangers were present and an interesting discussion followed. The next meeting will be on December 9 at 17, Lombard-street at 7.30 prompt. Mrs. Madderigh will speak on "The Necessity for Unbiased Opinions." Friends are invited.

Potteries.

On Monday evening, November 24, Miss Andrews was asked to speak to the members of the Hanley Women's Co-operative Guild. Great interest was aroused and new members were added to the Branch. The next day Miss Andrews addressed a joint meeting of the Women's Labour League and the Independent Labour Party. A debate followed in which much satisfaction was expressed at the position taken up by the speaker. Mrs. Despard has kindly consented to speak on Saturday, December 6, and a meeting has been arranged for her at the Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent. Miss Andrews is to address a colliers' meeting on December 5 at the Providence Chapel, Hanley.

Ipswich.

We had a very good meeting on November 27, when Mrs. De Candole gave us a most interesting paper on "Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Her Poems." She showed how her retired life, owing to health, gave her time for writing, but did not prevent her from sympathy with the world outside, as was shown by her poem, "The Cry of the Children." She also spoke of the ideal life of the poet husband and wife. A good discussion followed, and Mrs. De Candole was heartily thanked for her lecture—with the hope of favours to come! February 2 is fixed for our Green, White, and Gold Fête; we hope to have a loan collection of sweated industries for it; other plans will be published later.

Wolverhampton.

The Wolverhampton Group is still as energetic, as was shown by a meeting they arranged at the Labour Institute on November 26. Miss Andrews was the speaker and received a very cordial welcome on her first visit to Wolverhampton. Everyone was pleased to see Mrs. Spon at the meeting. She has recovered from her serious illness, though her state of health requires great care. Mrs. Calcar ably presided.

Chester.—Suffrage Shop, 45, St. Werburgs-street;

At our monthly meeting on November 27 we had the pleasure of hearing an interesting speech by Mrs. Shaw (Aintree Branch), who dealt with various types of Anti-Suffragists. Our shop progresses well, and members, taking turn, manage to keep it open from 11 to 6 or 7 p.m. daily. It is proposed to start a Woman's Work Exchange for the benefit of members or subscribers who have anything to sell. Profits to swell our W.F.L. funds.

SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

In the absence of the speaker advertised for our meeting on November 26, Miss A. B. Jack very kindly stepped into the breach and gave a most interesting address on "Temperance Legislation," dealing especially with the provisions of the recent Act passed for Scotland. While welcoming the Act as a great step in advance, the speaker regretted that its Local Option clause does not come into operation until 1920, and showed the need for reforms in housing and industrial conditions as part of the Temperance crusade. In the discussion that followed the Total Prohibition argument was ably brought forward by a gentleman in the audience, but his contention that the *status quo* was to be preferred to such compromise with the evil as that represented by the Act did not find much support. Miss Ireland reports that over

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six dozen VOTES were sold by her "Brigade" last week. This splendid result should encourage still more members to volunteer: work can be found for anyone with a little spare time. Donations of soft goods, cakes and sweets, provisions, flowers, books old or new and white elephants are wanted for the Christmas sale on December 13. Toys and articles suitable for gifts will be specially welcome.

THE WORSHIP OF ATHENE.

Miss Katherine Raleigh gave an excellent lecture on "The Worship of Athene," on November 10, at the Caxton Hall, under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League. Mrs. Marie Stopes, D.Sc., Ph.D., presided. The lecturer said that the people of Athens sprang from two races—the Pelasgians, small, dark-haired, peaceful, clever and artistic, who had inhabited Greece (so legend said) from the beginning of time; and the Hellenes, tall, fair-haired, warlike and ambitious, who came from Central Europe and over-ran Greece before the Iliad was written. The original Pelasgians worshipped Earth-divinities, sacred trees and animals, but the Hellenes revered Gods of the Upper Air and clothed them in human form, despising the more primitive cultus. Athene as the epitome of Athenian life is worshipped in both ways. As a Hellenic ideal she is goddess of War and Wisdom, as a Pelasgian survival she still cherishes the sacred Olive-tree, Snake and Owl, though these have been relegated to the position of "attributes." In early days Athene may have been worshipped as a tree, draped with the goat-skin which the art of later times transformed into a semi-shield of mail for the image in human form. The illustrations were selected from Greek Sculpture and Vase-paintings of the fifth Century, B.C., with views of ancient Athens. The lecture was given in aid of the funds of the League, and was an entree success from every point of view.

I believe the granting of the ballot to women is along the line of the higher development of our humanity.—*Hon. Oliver W. Stewart.*

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 (Extract from the Report of the Directors.)
 AN examination of the details of the Trading Account has shown that a fairly creditable average has been maintained in the Advertisement Department, but in order that the accounts may be held and increased, it is necessary that the Advertisers shall be well patronised, and the Directors appeal to all members to support those firms who support the paper, to regard the Advertiser not merely as an ordinary trader knocking at the door of the consumer, but as one of the most important factors in building up "THE VOTE."

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